

August Beautification Award Winner

Nancy and Bryan Rhodes of 701 Carrolton Blvd.

Nancy and Bryan Rhodes have lived in West Lafayette since 1978, but settled in their home on Carrolton Blvd in 1987 for the neighborhood and the schools. The Rhodes' three sons attended West Side, and now four grandchildren are going to school here as well. When asked how they became interested in landscaping, Nancy replied "I have always loved flowers, I guess I got that from my Mom. Bryan and I work together since he retired. My Mom loved flowers and had a "green thumb". The cleome (spider) flowers are all volunteers from plants my Dad and I transplanted from Mom's garden after she passed away. The spider flowers have a real sentimental value to me, needless to say."

The Rhodes also spoke about how their landscaping brings them joy. Their love of birds and how they interact with their garden is one aspect they spoke about. "Hummingbirds are favorites for both of us. We put out hummingbird feeders in the front and back yard and try to plant flowers that attract them. They love the spider flowers also. We have a 200+ year old white oak in our back yard that had a hummingbird nest last summer. It was right outside our bedroom window so we could keep a close eye on them. It was so exciting to watch the 2 tiny birds grow and leave the nest."

When asked if they had any advice for those who just started with their own landscaping, they replied, "We have wonderful neighbors that share information and plants. I am not an expert with plants, I just really enjoy being outside and working with flowers. I try to do some research but a lot of it is trial and error. The enjoyment really comes when we see bees, butterflies and hummingbirds going from flower to flower. The most difficult thing for us is finding plants that work in our light; there are pros and cons of living in a beautiful neighborhood with trees."

Thank you to Nancy and Bryan Rhodes on keeping West Lafayette beautiful!

